Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06049 120625Z ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2232

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS SEOUL 6049

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: BENC, KS

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: HAMILTON TOURIST HOTEL - SEOUL

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: THE HAMILTON, AN EIGHT STORY, 150 GUEST ROOM, CLASS A TOURIST HOTEL LOCATED IN THE SHOPPING AREA MOST FAVORED BY FOREIGN VISITORS NEAR THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND/U.S. EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND KOREAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, PLANS TO CONSTRUCT 15 ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPAND TO 450-500 GUEST ROOMS. THE HOTEL WHICH HAS 3 RESTAURANTS AND A NIGHT CLUB, CATERS LARGELY TO UNITED NATIONS MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES NEEDING TEMPORARY QUARTERS IN CONNECTION WITH CHANGES IN STATION AND TEMPORARY DUTY ASSIGNMENTS. THE BUILDING AND FOUNDATIONS WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO SUPPORT 25 STORIES. FIRM PERCEIVES THAT DEMAND BY U.N.C. MILITARY RELATED GUESTS WILL MAINTAIN OCCUPANCY RATE OF AT LEAST 70 PERCENT OF THE EXPANDED HOTEL AND FORESEES NO DIFFICULTIES IN ATTRACTING TOURIST GROUPS TO OCCUPY REMAINING ROOMS. FIRM SEEKS INVESTMENT AND/OR UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINT VENTURE AND MANAGEMENT BY POPULAR U.S. HOTEL CHAIN.

2. IMPLEMENTING OFFICE: INTERESTED FIRMS SHOULD CONTACT

MR. CHULSOO LEE, PRESIDENT HAMILTON TOURIST HOTEL 119-25, ITAEWON-DONG YONGSAN-KU, SEOUL, R.O.K. CABLE ADDRESS: KSHMIL TELEX NUMBER: K24491

TELEPHONE: 794-0170/9 OR 794-6711/9

- 3. PROJECT COSTS AND FINANCING: COSTS HAVE NOT BEEN DETAILED, BUT WOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$5 MILLION OF WHICH FIRM HAS ABOUT HALF. FINANCING WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION BY U.S. INVESTOR OR PARTNER/MANAGER.
- 4. POTENTIAL U.S. SALES: SALES OF U.S. HOTEL EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS WOULD DEPEND ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PRTICIPANT FOR STANDARDIZATION WITH OTHER HOTELS IN ITS CHAIN, ETC. APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT BY ROKG WOULD MAKE U.S. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBLE TO IMPORT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS REGARDLESS OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND WOULD CONVEY THE TAX AND OTHER INCENTIVES OF THE FOREIGN CAPITAL INDUCEMENT LAW.
- 5. POST COMMENTS: PROJECT WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE FOR PARTICIPATION BY A U.S. FIRM SPECIALIZING IN POPULAR HOTEL/MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. THE NEW HOTEL CONSTRUCTION IN KOREA IS ALMOST ALL IN THE LUXURY CLASS WHEREAS THERE IS A STRONG CONTINUING DEMAND FOR POPULARLY PRICED HOTEL ROOMS. STERN

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